

kinds of bread at communion? If so, why? If not, why? Should we have fermented or unfermented wine? Can a Christian consistently vote for license? Do not pass laws nor dogmatize, but seriously and candidly ventilate all questions.

Result. Narrowness, prejudice and ignorance would disappear, and precious truth would shine forth like sparkling diamonds.

4 Our financial committee and trustees of college, publishing house, tract society, and missionary committees all ought to present such matters as will touch the pocket book of the entire church through EVANGELIST, and not spring large financial burdens upon us unawares. Last year and year before it seemed a necessity, but that should be remedied. Last Convention cost me over two hundred dollars, that is more clear money than I've made in four years. I don't begrudge it, I had to impose upon myself in order to consistently impose upon others. It was the only means available to save our college; but to keep this up will detract from Convention's attendance. It has so financially embarrassed me that I fear I will not be able to attend this year. If these kind of emergencies will not be avoided it will place hundreds in the same boat with me. All this can and should be avoided. We ought to so organize our work that the entire brotherhood will be personally interviewed and solicited for all these purposes. Each congregation raising a small sum for all these purposes when put together will amount to much more than can possibly be gotten at any convention under the most favorable circumstances.

5 Our need abundantly above all else is a more thoroughly consecrated ministry. We need more true religion in all of our conventions. It should be the highest and purest that God can make out of man.

In all of our business we should do with the same sincerity and faithfulness that we would were we sure that the next moment we were to be ushered into the presence of God. We should have such implicit faith and assured confidence in God as to know that every thing we do for self will be the worse for us in this world and the

world to come. We should believe if we forsake *all* for Christ that we will receive ONE HUNDRED FOLD IN THIS WORLD and in the other ETERNAL LIFE. "All things work for good to them that love the Lord."

Oh, that God would give us faith to believe these wonderful truths, step out upon the promises of God and be free men and women—freed from self, from fear of man, free as the air we breathe from all the selfish environments of earth. We should have our conventions so full of spiritual prayer and song and intensified love as to make it a real gehennah for the selfish Pharasaical preacher or lay member. Our purity, spiritual enthusiasm and ardent love should be so intense that it will either drive him out or burn up all the dross that the pure gold may glitter.

I would suggest a day of special prayer and fasting that the Lord would give us such a Convention as we never had before for good. The Lord says ask any thing, he will give it—any thing that is right, that we ought to have. I feel it is right for us to have the best Convention we ever had. But such only cometh by fasting and prayer. What say you brethren if we all ask unitedly for the same blessing in faith we will get it. If favorable I would suggest the editor or president fix the day.

I have expressed my feelings and thoughts. They may be very imperfect but I know that they are sincere.

OUR NEXT CONFERENCE—WHAT OUGHT TO BE DONE.

BY G. W. RENCH.

Of the many needs of the brethren in general, two of these are clearly to be seen by anyone who has even partially surveyed the field.

First in order of importance is *to hold what has been gained*. To my knowledge there are four and perhaps more congregations in this district whose influence for good in the community is practically gone; and there are other congregations just coming up "out of darkness" where their power for good has been eclipsed for the last four years. We all know what a long period of months and years it takes to restore lost confidence.

All this is the result of bad management, or lack of any care or oversight at all. Two or three contrary or otherwise ungodly members have been known to "hold up" a whole congregation and so thoroughly block the wheels that it would be impossible to move on at any thing like creditable speed, and officers and pastors with God at their backs to support them will quietly submit and will urge Bro. A. to make greater sacrifices that he can pay more money, and Bro. B. to pay more, while this bad element destroys the good which the church means to do!

The protracted meeting comes off, but people dislike to go into a class where there is and has been trouble and annoyance all the time, and hence they stay out.

The congregations which have successful meetings and many additions are not those which are involved in trouble.

Well what can conference do? Legislate and make *decisions* which declare that we shall have deacons and elders and the duties of such shall be so and so? No. It has been the mission of the preacher ever since Christ arose from the dead to teach, *teach*, TEACH.

When you go into the various congregations you find the deacons and elders—if there are any—anxious to know and do the work required of them.

We all feel the need of instruction in the "new and living way." The program committee should see that this great need of the church is met by assigning the various departments of this work to some persons "who are able to teach others also."

This will lead some one to say that you do not know what a conference is for. If its usefulness to the cause is to be measured by its past "resolves" and enactments, I admit I do not. Many complain because its decisions are not respected. But this only convinces me that most of these decisions ought not to have been made at all. The chairman announces that he must have motions; and some one who is anxious to "start things" soon has a motion before the body—not because the welfare of the church demands it, but to enable some one to *talk* and then the conference to *vote*. If it is not too radical it is likely to pass. It is no